

INTRODUCTION

This 2003-2007 Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie Consolidated Plan has been prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Consolidated Plan regulations (24CFR Part 91). This process began in 1995 with the creation of the 1995-1997 Dutchess County and City of Poughkeepsie Consolidated Plans.

The main purpose of consolidated planning is to develop the plan through a collaborative process whereby a community established a unified vision for community development actions. This Plan outlines the priorities by which the County and City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs will be administered over the next five years.

The Plan also discusses priorities which will not be funded by the CDBG or HOME Program but are integral to any successful community development strategy. These priorities are not recommended for CDBG or HOME funds because they are either ineligible for such funding or are addressed by another significant funding source. The County and City will support applications to other state and federal funding sources to address these priorities.

The goals of this Plan reflect the three main goals of HUD's consolidated planning efforts which include:

- * *Provision of decent housing*
- * *Provision of a suitable living environment*
- * *Expansion of economic opportunities*

County and City have prepared this Consolidated Plan with the intention of promoting these statutory goals through a collaborative process which encourages resident participation and partnerships between the County, the City, other municipalities, social service providers and the public.

In an effort to create the most comprehensive and inclusive plan possible, the County and City have adjusted the planning process slightly from the standard process used by most communities. HUD regulations permit a Consolidated Plan and the first year Action Plan to be prepared simultaneously. Most communities follow this process. The problem with this process is that the public, municipalities and agencies are being asked to submit projects based on priorities which have yet to be established. To correct this obvious problem, the County and City will complete their Consolidated Plan prior to the release of the 2003 CDBG and HOME application kits. The Consolidated Plan priorities will be clearly outlined in all application kits and at the Action Plan public hearings. Applications for CDBG and HOME funds will be due in the fall of 2002 with preliminary decisions being made in December 2002. The Action Plan will be available for public comment in December 2002 after which it, along with the previously prepared Consolidated Plan, will be sent to HUD. HUD approval of both plans is anticipated in March 2003.

LEAD AGENCY

The lead agencies for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan are the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development and the City of Poughkeepsie Office of Social Development. These Departments also administer the CDBG and HOME programs. It was because of their previous

experience with Consolidated Plan preparation and their experience on a wide range of community development issues that these agencies were designated by the Chief Elected Officials to prepare the Consolidated Plan. The County's Community Development Administrator and the Housing Coordinator serve as the key contact persons for the County's portion of the Plan. The Director of the Office of Social Development is the key contact person for the City of Poughkeepsie.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The institutional structure involved in the creation of the Consolidated Plan is comprehensive and extensive. The lead agencies are responsible for insuring that the public and all interested agencies are part of the structure that creates this Plan. In addition to the Lead Agencies, the structure involves the public, municipal officials, private non-profit organizations, church and community organizations, public housing agencies and other public institutions. This same structure will implement the Plan.

To insure participation of the groups listed above the County and the City:

- * provides technical assistance to all groups interested in submitting ideas to be incorporated in the Consolidated Plan or projects to be included in an action plan
- * keeps all groups informed of the status of plans and their opportunity to participate through direct mailing, press releases and legal notices
- * facilitates the flow of information among groups involved in the plan development
- * serves as liaison to the Dutchess County Community Development Advisory Committee and the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council

In addition to participating in the development of the Plan, most of these organizations participate in the implementation of the Plan. They achieve this through their participation in the development of the annual action plans which outline the specific activities that will take place to address the priorities outlined in the Consolidated Plan. These organizations make up the county's service delivery system. The County and City are required to periodically assess the strengths and weaknesses of this system to ensure that the County and City are able to implement the Consolidated Plan goals. These strengths and weaknesses are reviewed in detail in the Strategic Plan section of this Plan.

URBAN COUNTY STATUS

Dutchess County is required to complete a Consolidated Plan because of its status as an Urban County Consortium with HUD. This status provides the County funding under the CDBG and HOME program. The Consortium exists through the voluntary participation of the County and local towns, villages and the City of Beacon. This voluntary Consortium is formalized through cooperation agreements. CDBG funds are provided to Consortium members through a competitive process. Each community assess its own needs, as they relate to the priorities in the Consolidated Plan, and develops programs and projects which address those needs. This decentralized approach is consistent with the philosophy of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and many of the recent congressional block granting efforts.

This plan covers all Dutchess County municipalities which are members of the 2003 Urban County Consortium including:

City of Beacon

Town of Amenia	Town of Pawling
Town of Beekman	Town of Pine Plains
Town of Clinton	Town of Pleasant Valley
Town of Dover	Town of Poughkeepsie
Town of East Fishkill	Town of Red Hook
Town of Fishkill	Town of Rhinebeck
Town of Hyde Park	Town of Stanford
Town of LaGrange	Town of Unionvale
Town of Milan	Town of Wappingers
Town of North East	Town of Washington
Village of Fishkill	Village of Red Hook
Village of Millbrook	Village of Rhinebeck
Village of Millerton	Village of Tivoli
Village of Pawling	

This Consortium includes all Dutchess County municipalities except the City of Poughkeepsie, which receives its own CDBG funding.

The City of Poughkeepsie is required to complete a Consolidated Plan by virtue of it being its own entitlement community under the CDBG Program.

By virtue of the urban county status, the County is also eligible to receive funds under HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Program. Dutchess County began receiving these funds in 1992. In 1995 Dutchess County entered into an consortium with the City of Poughkeepsie which increased the County's annual HOME allocation from approximately \$500,000 to \$750,000. The additional funds are set aside for the housing needs of the City. This Consortium was renewed in 2001.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Citizen Participation Plan which follows outlines the outreach efforts and application processes for the County and City's CDBG and HOME Program.